### Accelerated Revenue, Inc.

3964 North Hampton Drive Powell, Ohio 43065 614.789.9100 614.789.9190 facsimile ARI – AR solutions with Integrity



April 10, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Lee B. Jacobs, Jr., and I am the President and co-founder of Accelerated Revenue, Inc. located in Ohio. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a professional debt collector. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

As you know, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) was passed in 1991. This law was designed to protect consumers from invasive calls from telemarketers. One of the provisions of the TCPA prohibits the use of an autodialer to communicate with a consumer by way of their cell phone. Between 1991 and 2003, the FCC consistently ruled that this autodialer prohibition did not apply to calls made using an autodialer if the sole purpose of the calls was to recover payments for goods and services already purchased.

But in July 2003, the FCC took a dramatic shift in its position about the applicability of the autodialer prohibition to the credit and collection industry when it expanded the statutory definition of autodialer to include predictive dialers. By expanding the definition of autodialer and failing to restate the commission's prior rulings that calls made by creditors and debt collectors to consumers' about their past due payment obligations by way of their cell phones were not subject to the autodialer prohibition, the FCC inadvertently brought calls my company makes for the sole purpose of recovering past due payment obligations from consumers within the scope of the regulation. This shift in policy has caused my business substantial harm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The TCPA defines an autodialer as, "equipment which has the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator; and to dial such numbers."

I am aware ACA has filed a Petition for an Expedited Ruling regarding this issue in proceeding CG Docket No. 02-278 with the commission. I fully support ACA's petition and the relief requested, including ACA's statement of the harm to business and the federal and state governments as a result of the FCC's rule. I believe that the FCC should not uphold an unsupportable and damaging regulatory interpretation that will encourage the evasion and non-payment of debts by prohibiting the use of autodialers to telephone consumers by way of their cell phones. To do so is contrary to the intent of Congress and all prior rulings of the FCC between 1991 and 2003 concerning this issue.

In the specific context of recovering payments, I use predictive dialers to complete transactions for which consumers have obtained a benefit, without payment. They are not used – nor do they have the capacity to be used – to randomly solicit customers to make purchases or advertise goods. In fact, autodialer technology is the most accurate way for me to call consumers about their past due payment obligations. Autodialers increase the accuracy of dialed numbers and also restrict calls to the permitted calling times in the time zone of the consumer.

If the FCC's 2003 regulatory definition of autodialer is allowed to stand, creditors and their debt collection agents face the devastating loss of an essential technological tool, namely the autodialer. It cannot be overstated that autodialer technology is directly or indirectly responsible for returning tens of billions of dollars each year to the U.S. economy. Banning their use in this limited context would not only be inconsistent with Congress' intent, but it would be an unconscionable interference with creditors' ability to request payment from its own customers. Additionally, one of the largest creditors in the United States is the federal government. If the FCC does not clarify that the autodialer prohibition does not apply to those making calls to collect past due payment obligations, the federal government will be forced to discontinue its use of autodialers to recover past due payment obligations from tax payers. Such a result would be devastating to the federal government, including the FCC, Department of the Treasury, Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service and cause all citizens who lawfully pay their federal taxes and other payments owed to the federal government to suffer substantial harm.

The TCPA was enacted to protect consumers from unsolicited advertisements and telemarketing calls. The TCPA's prohibition against the use of autodialers to contact consumers by way of their cell phones was specifically intended to protect consumers from incurring charges as a result of unwarranted telemarketing calls being made to their wireless phones about products or services to be purchased in the future. There was never any intention on the part of Congress to prohibit creditors and their retained collection agencies from being able to contact consumers on their wireless phones about a past due payment obligation for goods and services already purchased and received.

Moreover, wireless phone usage has grown exponentially since 1991 when the TCPA was enacted. Today, more than one out of every five Americans under the age of 35 does not have a landline phone and instead uses a wireless phone as their exclusive means of telephonic communication. If allowed to stand, the long-term consequences of the FCC's decision are foreboding at best.

As it stands today, my business, along with thousands of others, face serious financial hardship due to the FCC's regulatory reversal. The FCC's rule needlessly subjects us to federal enforcement and private litigation, even though Congress never intended such an outcome.

For these reasons, the FCC should promptly clarify that autodialer calls to wireless numbers solely to recover payment obligations are not covered by the TCPA regulations for the reasons expressed by ACA.

Sincerely,

-Lee B. Jacobs, Jr.

President

Accelerated Revenue, Inc.



RECEIVED & INSPECTED INSPECTED Recovery Nationwide

APR 1 7 2006

FCC - MAILROOM

April 11, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Alan Jacoby, and I am the President/CEO of Money Recovery Nationwide located in Lansing, Michigan. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a debt collector. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

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Sincerely,

Alan Jacoby President/CEO

Money Recovery Nationwide



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DCI CREDIT SERVICES, INC.

3333 East Broadway #1217

Bismarck, North Dakota 58501 Telephone: 701-222-1368

Fax: 701-224-1599

P.O. Drawer 1347

Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

Telephone: 701-483-9111 Fax: 701-483-4438

April 11,2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Mike Lefor, and I am the President of DCI Credit Services, Inc. located in North Dakota. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a debt collector. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

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For these reasons, the FCC should promptly clarify that autodialer calls to wireless numbers solely to recover payment obligations are not covered by the TCPA regulations for the reasons expressed by ACA.

Sincerely,

Mike Lefor, IFCCE

President

DCI Credit Services, Inc.



Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Jack Morris, and I am the General Manager of Empire Solutions, Inc. located in Georgia. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a Bad Debt Collector. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

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Sincerely,

Jackques T. Morris

General Manager Empire Solutions, Inc.

La Chapelle Credit Service.

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

C.S.

866-844-2357 Fax: 920.435.6191 lachapellecollections.com

200 South Monroe Ave. P.O. Box 1653 Green Bay, WI 54305-1653

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ncome To Your Bottom Line Since 1930

FCC-MAILROOM

Date April 10, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Daniel D Ellingson, and I am the President of La Chapelle Credit Service, Inc., located in Wisconsin. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a debt collector. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

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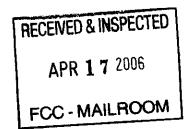
Sincerely,

Daniel D Ellingson

President

La Chapelle Credit Service, Inc.





# Allied Business Accounts, Inc. Health Care Billing Services, Inc.

300 1/2 South Street, P.O. Box 1600 Clinton, Iowa 52733-1600 563-242-2586 • Fax 563-242-9076 Toll Free 800-533-0216

April 11th, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Janet Linders and I am a collector with Allied Business Accounts, Inc. located in Clinton, Iowa. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a debt collector. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

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Accounts Receivable Management Services

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services and assistance in the collection of delinquent accounts, we would have to look at dismissing some staff, this would result in tens of thousands in lost wages and taxes for both the state and the federal government.

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not have a landline phone and instead uses a wireless phone as their exclusive means of telephonic communication. If allowed to stand, the long-term consequences of the FCC's decision are foreboding at best.

As it stands today, my business, along with thousands of others, face serious financial hardship due to the FCC's regulatory reversal. The FCC's rule needlessly subjects us to federal enforcement and private litigation, even though Congress never intended such an outcome.

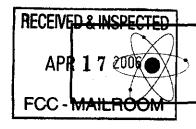
For these reasons, the FCC should promptly clarify that autodialer calls to wireless numbers solely to recover payment obligations are not covered by the TCPA regulations for the reasons expressed by ACA.

Sincerely,

Janet Linders

Collector

Allied Business Accounts Inc.



## QUANTUM COLLECTIONS

April 10, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Richard E. Billman, and I am the Executive Vice President of Quantum Collections, located in Nevada. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a debt collector. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

As you know, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) was passed in 1991. This law was designed to protect consumers from invasive calls from telemarketers. One of the provisions of the TCPA prohibits the use of an autodialer to communicate with a consumer by way of their cell phone. Between 1991 and 2003, the FCC consistently ruled that this autodialer prohibition did not apply to calls made using an autodialer if the sole purpose of the calls was to recover payments for goods and services already purchased.

But in July 2003, the FCC took a dramatic shift in its position about the applicability of the autodialer prohibition to the credit and collection industry when it expanded the statutory definition of autodialer to include predictive dialers. By expanding the definition of autodialer and failing to restate the commission's prior rulings that calls made by creditors and debt collectors to consumers' about their past due payment obligations by way of their cell phones were not subject to the autodialer prohibition, the FCC inadvertently brought calls my company makes for the sole purpose of recovering past due payment obligations from consumers within the scope of the regulation. This shift in policy has caused my business substantial harm.

I am aware ACA has filed a Petition for an Expedited Ruling regarding this issue in proceeding CG Docket No. 02-278 with the commission. I fully support ACA's petition and the relief requested, including ACA's statement of the harm to business and the federal and state governments as a result of the FCC's rule. I believe that the FCC should not uphold an unsupportable and damaging regulatory interpretation that will encourage the evasion and non-payment of debts by prohibiting the use of autodialers to telephone consumers by way of their cell phones. To do so is contrary to the intent of Congress and all prior rulings of the FCC between 1991 and 2003 concerning this issue.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The TCPA defines an autodialer as, "equipment which has the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator; and to dial such numbers."

In the specific context of recovering payments, I use predictive dialers to complete transactions for which consumers have obtained a benefit, without payment. They are not used – nor do they have the capacity to be used – to randomly solicit customers to make purchases or advertise goods. In fact, autodialer technology is the most accurate way for me to call consumers about their past due payment obligations. Autodialers increase the accuracy of dialed numbers and also restrict calls to the permitted calling times in the time zone of the consumer.

If the FCC's 2003 regulatory definition of autodialer is allowed to stand, creditors and their debt collection agents face the devastating loss of an essential technological tool, namely the autodialer. It cannot be overstated that autodialer technology is directly or indirectly responsible for returning tens of billions of dollars each year to the U.S. economy. Banning their use in this limited context would not only be inconsistent with Congress' intent, but it would be an unconscionable interference with creditors' ability to request payment from its own customers. Additionally, one of the largest creditors in the United States is the federal government. If the FCC does not clarify that the autodialer prohibition does not apply to those making calls to collect past due payment obligations, the federal government will be forced to discontinue its use of autodialers to recover past due payment obligations from tax payers. Such a result would be devastating to the federal government, including the FCC, Department of the Treasury, Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service and cause all citizens who lawfully pay their federal taxes and other payments owed to the federal government to suffer substantial harm.

The TCPA was enacted to protect consumers from unsolicited advertisements and telemarketing calls. The TCPA's prohibition against the use of autodialers to contact consumers by way of their cell phones was specifically intended to protect consumers from incurring charges as a result of unwarranted telemarketing calls being made to their wireless phones about products or services to be purchased in the future. There was never any intention on the part of Congress to prohibit creditors and their retained collection agencies from being able to contact consumers on their wireless phones about a past due payment obligation for goods and services already purchased and received.

Moreover, wireless phone usage has grown exponentially since 1991 when the TCPA was enacted. Today, more than one out of every five Americans under the age of 35 does not have a landline phone and instead uses a wireless phone as their exclusive means of telephonic communication. If allowed to stand, the long-term consequences of the FCC's decision are foreboding at best.

As it stands today, my business, along with thousands of others, face serious financial hardship due to the FCC's regulatory reversal. The FCC's rule needlessly subjects us to federal enforcement and private litigation, even though Congress never intended such an outcome.

For these reasons, the FCC should promptly clarify that autodialer calls to wireless numbers solely to recover payment obligations are not covered by the TCPA regulations for the reasons expressed by ACA.

Richard E. Billman

Executive Vice President Ouantum Collections

Quantum Concentions

cc: ACA International

Quantum Collections 3224 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas, NV 89030 Phone (702) 633-8080 Fax (702) 657-1888

Email service@quantumcollections.com

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### American Credit Service

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APR 17 2006

FCC - MAILROOM

"A Collection Agency Since 1987"

Mail:

P.O. Box 1328

St. Peters, MO 63376-0023

(636) 441-7200

(888) 569-7800 Toll Free

(636) 928-5700 Fax

April 11, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Shirley Mason, and I am the President of American Credit Corporation located in Missouri. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a debt collector. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

As you know, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) was passed in 1991. This law was designed to protect consumers from invasive calls from telemarketers. One of the provisions of the TCPA prohibits the use of an autodialer to communicate with a consumer by way of their cell phone. Between 1991 and 2003, the FCC consistently ruled that this autodialer prohibition did not apply to calls made using an autodialer if the sole purpose of the calls was to recover payments for goods and services already purchased.

But in July 2003, the FCC took a dramatic shift in its position about the applicability of the autodialer prohibition to the credit and collection industry when it expanded the statutory definition of autodialer to include predictive dialers. By expanding the definition of autodialer and failing to restate the commission's prior rulings that calls made by creditors and debt collectors to consumers' about their past due payment obligations by way of their cell phones were not subject to the autodialer prohibition, the FCC inadvertently brought calls my company makes for the sole purpose of recovering

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For these reasons, the FCC should promptly clarify that autodialer calls to wireless numbers solely to recover payment obligations are not covered by the TCPA regulations for the reasons expressed by ACA.

Sincerely,

Shirley Mason

President

**American Credit Corporation** 

SkuleyMason



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APR 17 2006

**FCC - MAILROOM** 

April 10, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 02-278

My name is Linda Guinn, and I am the President of C B Merchant Services located in California. I do not perform telemarketing services. Rather I am a third party collection agency representing various industries in the recovery of charged off accounts. The purpose of this correspondence is twofold. First, I wish to make you aware my business has been substantially harmed as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 regulatory decision to expand the definition of autodialer beyond its statutory definition. Second, I urge you as the chair of the FCC to ask the commission to grant ACA International's (ACA) request for regulatory clarification in favor of the industry as well as all consumers who lawfully pay for goods and services they have purchased.

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**EQUIFAX** 

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Sincerely,

Linda A Guinn

President

C B Merchant Services

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